

# **EXHIBIT D**

Claimant  
Nicholas del Rosso  
First  
21 June 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
Claim No. HC-2016-002798  
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES  
BUSINESS LIST (ChD)  
BETWEEN:

RAS AL KHAIMAH INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Claimant

-and-

FARHAD AZIMA

Defendant

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS DEL ROSSO

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I, **NICHOLAS DEL ROSSO**, of 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517 USA **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the President and owner of Vital Management Services Inc. of the above address ("**VMS**"). VMS provides consulting services to law firms and businesses engaged in investigating or evaluating suspected fraud. I make this witness statement at the request of the Claimant, Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority ("**RAKIA**").



2. Save insofar as is stated otherwise, the facts set out below are within my own knowledge or are derived from other sources or documents that I have seen and which in all cases I believe to be true. Where any facts are not within my knowledge, the source of those facts is stated.
3. As some time has elapsed, I do not have a precise recollection of the exact dates and times certain of the events I refer to occurred. I have refreshed my memory by reference to emails that I sent or received in the relevant period. I refer to some of these documents below by reference to their disclosure ID number (contained in curly brackets { }).
4. In August 2014, VMS was engaged by Dechert LLP to investigate assets potentially stolen from the Government of Ras Al Khaimah ("RAK"). Pursuant to its engagement VMS examined potential frauds committed by, amongst others, Khater Massaad. I took my instructions from Dechert LLP, and had limited direct contact with Jamie Buchanan and other representatives of the RAK government. I had worked previously with other lawyers then at Dechert LLP on unrelated matters involving suspected fraud.
5. In early August 2016, I received a telephone call from Neil Gerrard of Dechert. During that call, Neil told me that Stuart Page had identified two links on the internet which appeared to contain data relating to Farhad Azima, an associate of Khater Massaad. I do not know Stuart Page but I had heard of him because he works in a similar industry to me.
6. When Neil and I spoke, he asked if VMS could assist in retrieving the data that had been found, or if VMS could engage a suitable forensic data specialist to do so. He then dictated to me over the phone the details of the two links where the information could be found. I do recall Neil warned me that the material could contain viruses.
7. I do not recall the exact date of this call but I do remember that it was very early in the morning in North Carolina where I live. Neil knows that I get up early. I also recall that I set things in motion the same day. I saw this as a



commercial opportunity and I was concerned that Neil might have also asked others if they could access the material. I have seen an email from me to Rich Garcia at Northern Technology, Inc. ("NTi") (which was later engaged to download the material as explained below) timed at 10.28am on 9 August 2016 referring to an introductory call {RAK0001941}. I think that I would have sent the email shortly after receiving Neil's call, which I believe must therefore have been on 9 August 2016.

8. Chris Swecker is a former Assistant Director of the FBI and VMS's attorney. I regularly instruct subcontractors through Chris to ensure that engagements are properly documented and so that, where applicable, legal privilege is maintained. Following Neil's call, I called Chris to ask for recommendations of who might be able to help download this material, given the warning about viruses that Neil had given me. Chris recommended that I contact Rich Garcia at NTi. I believe that Chris mentioned other potential experts but was concerned that this project might be too small a piece of work for some of the more prominent companies engaged in cyber matters. I also understand that Rich Garcia, who was the CEO of NTi, and Chris had worked together at the FBI.
9. Following Chris's recommendation, I spoke to Rich Garcia. Rich Garcia told me that NTi had the necessary expertise I was looking for. I have seen an email exchange between me and Chris starting at 11.47am on 9 August 2016 which confirms that VMS sought to engage NTi immediately {RAK0001944}.
10. In that email I confirm to Chris that I had given Rich the two web addresses: <https://thepiratebay.org/torrent/15484452> and <https://monova.org/42248895>. These were the addresses that Neil had given to me in our phone conversation. I note that my email says that I had told Rich that "*as recently as last week – we were advised by researchers that a deep web search indicated that data relating to Farhad Azima was on a site...*" and that "*In addition, over this past weekend, we were told that another site...*". I recall that these statements were reports of information that Neil had told me during our call.

11. I have seen an email from me to Chris Swecker on 12 August 2016 at 7.54pm in which I provide him with two additional sites from a Google search referring to *"Farhad Azima of the Aviation Leasing Group Exposed"* {RAK0001946}. These were Google searches that I had performed myself, earlier that day. I assumed the content of these new sites was related to the two original sites that Neil had given me.
12. I have seen an email exchange between Neil Gerrard and I on 15 August 2016 which starts with Neil stating *"I've had another call from Stuart who confirms again that there is a website on FA. He seems to think it's been generated from a UAE source. I've asked for details..."* {RAK0001949}. I responded confirming that VMS had instructed NTi to search and recover what may have been on them. I also asked how it was known that the site was set up in the UAE. Neil confirmed in response that he did not know and that he would ask. I do not recall ever following up this inquiry with Neil or hearing more from him on where the sites might have originated from.
13. On Tuesday 23 August 2016 at 9.33am I received an email from Rich Garcia confirming that NTi would provide some of the data to me by Wednesday {RAK0001958}. He explained some of the difficulties of downloading data from this particular torrent file. I had no prior knowledge of or experience with such things.
14. I received a follow up email later that day from Rich confirming that his analyst Jess Gray had been successful with the download and could provide the material on some type of secure "drop box" file {RAK0001959}. In fact NTi sent me a drive by FedEx as was confirmed in an email the following morning on 24 August 2016 {RAK0001962}. I was flying to London that day for a meeting at Dechert so I had the drive delivered to me together with a copy for Dechert. I do not recall who I gave the copy to at Dechert. It would have been either Neil Gerrard or one of his associates.
15. I have seen an email dated 1 September 2016 from me to Chris Swecker, Rich Garcia and Jess Gray at 7.46am entitled *"Update – New Data"*



{RAK0001980}. In this email I state that the "client's 'spotter' in Dubai has reported a new data dump." I do not clearly recall how I learned of this but I believe it was Neil or one of his associates who told me. I do not remember being told the identity of the "spotter". I assumed it was a reference to Stuart Page. I note that in this email I also referred to another "message" and explained that I could not open it (due to lack of signal) to give them the link. I do not recall the means by which I received the other "message" but, after a thorough search of my documents and devices, I have not found any records matching its description.

16. The following day on Friday 2 September 2016 at 10.21am I sent a further email to Jess Gray, Rich Garcia and Chris Swecker providing them with details of the additional sites I had received: [seedpeer.eu/details/11679969/Fraud-between-Farhad-Azima-and-jay-Solomon.html](http://seedpeer.eu/details/11679969/Fraud-between-Farhad-Azima-and-jay-Solomon.html) and [1337x.to/torrent/1756315/Fraud-between-Farhad-Azima-and-Jay-Solomon.html](http://1337x.to/torrent/1756315/Fraud-between-Farhad-Azima-and-Jay-Solomon.html) {RAK0001982}. Again, I described these as having come in from Dubai. I believe that was a reference to them having possibly come from Stuart Page, who I believed to be based in the UAE.
17. On 8 September 2016 Jess Gray confirmed to me by email that she had been able to download the data from "the newest torrent release" {RAK0001966}. She confirmed in this email that she would provide the new data on drives. I do not recall exactly how these drives were delivered to me or Dechert.
18. On 9 September 2016 I received a further email from Jess Gray confirming that she had received an alert about a new torrent data dump {RAK0001970}. I responded to her email querying whether this was a different set of data from the one she had recently downloaded. I also gave her instructions to begin the process of retrieving it from the web. She responded to confirm that it was "an entirely new data dump". On the same day I informed Neil Gerrard by email about NTi's discovery and confirmed that I had instructed NTi to try to recover the new set of data {RAK0001972}.

19. NTi were able to download and preserve this further cache of data that they had identified. I know that at some point NTi made the third tranche of data available to me but I do not recall exactly when or how.

20. I understand that Mr Azima alleges that RAKIA is responsible for hacking his computers and uploading his data to the internet. For the avoidance of doubt, I did not hack Mr Azima's computers, cause him to be hacked or know who hacked him. I did not upload his data to the internet, cause his data to be uploaded or know who did upload his data.

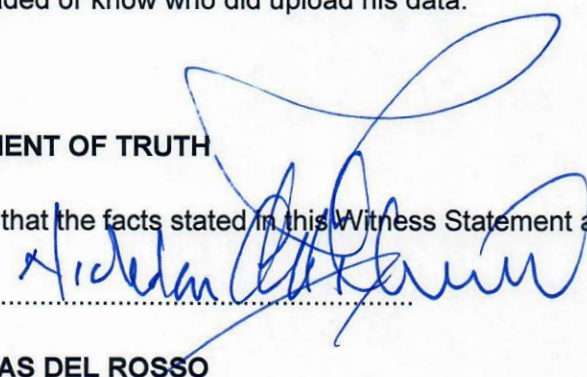
**STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

I believe that the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.

Signed.....

**NICHOLAS DEL ROSSO**

Date:

  
June 21, 2019.